MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, the newspaper report has been seen. No authentic data is available of the number of deaths caused by Hepatitis-B infection alone and therefore its comparison with deaths due to HIV (AIDS) is not feasible.

(b) The carrier rates have been projected on the basis of studies conducted in various hospitals. The estimates including those of AIIMS are based on extrapolation of the results observed in the studies.

(c) During the last meeting of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, held from 9-11th January, 1997, where all State Health Ministers are Members, it was interalia resolved as a part of the measures for infection control and waste management that hospital workers may be immunized especially against Hepatitis-B. The cost of immunizing 2.5 crores infants each year would exceed Rs. 500 crores and hence it has not been feasible to include vaccination against Hepatitis-B in the immunisation programme. The Government is however encourgaging indigenous manufacture of cost effective Hepatitis-B vaccine to bring down costs. In addition, the following measures have been taken:—

1. It is mandatory to screen all blood donations for Hepatitis-B virus before transfusion.
2. States and Union Territories have been advised to take preventive measures and immunize hospital workers.
3. Efforts are being made to promote safe sex behaviour under the National AIDS Control Programme. The routes of transmission for both diseases are the same.
4. Provision of separate syringe and separate needle for each vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Programme.
5. It has been decided to immunize hospital workers of Central Government Hospitals against Hepatitis-B.
6. Guidelines have been issued for the use of a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection and aseptic surgical intervention.
7. Health Education.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

उत्तर प्रदेश के पौड़ी क्षेत्र में हवाई पट्टी का निर्माण

3184. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह :**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा :

क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के लोग पौड़ी क्षेत्र में हवाई पट्टी के निर्माण के संबंध में कई वर्षों से मांग करते रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि यह मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन था लेकिन बाद में इसे रद्द कर दिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या सरकार इस क्षेत्र के विकास, पर्यटन की दृष्टि, इसके महत्व और इस क्षेत्र में पर्यटकों की सुविधा को मद्दे नजर रखते हुए इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो यह कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहिम) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) (ङ) किसी भी विमानकंपनी द्वारा यातायात संभाव्यता संबंधी सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण की इस क्षेत्र में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण की कोई योजना नहीं है।